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NUMBER 3

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# FAMILY COMPUTING

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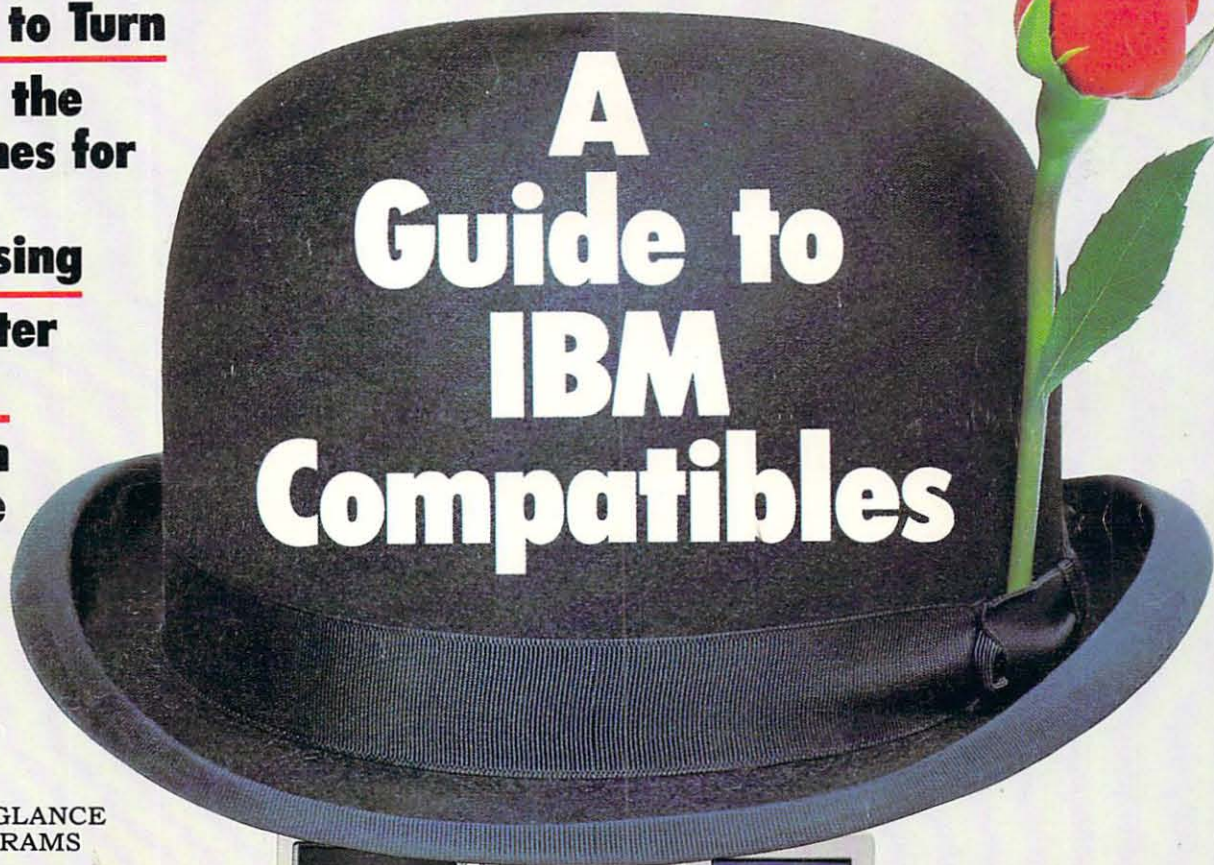
**Computer Repair:  
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**A  
Guide to  
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**24** AT-A-GLANCE  
PROGRAMS



DAM, APPLE II SERIES &  
10, 600/800XL & 130 XE,  
IBM PC & COMPATIBLES,  
TRNDY COCO & MODELS III & 4, TI-99/4A

# FAMILY COMPUTING

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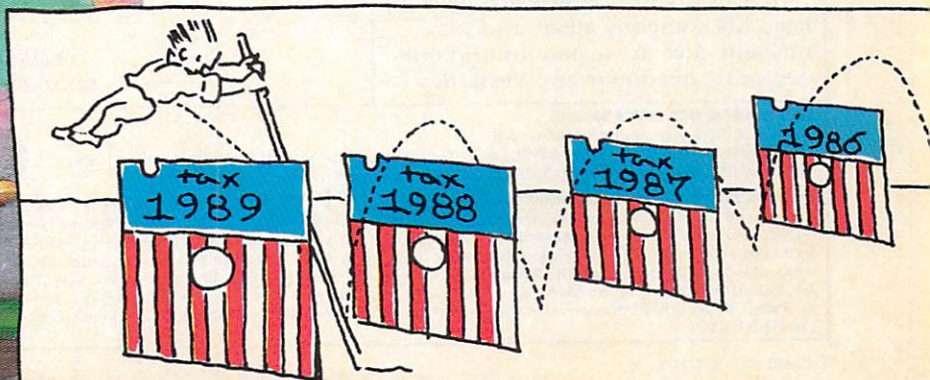
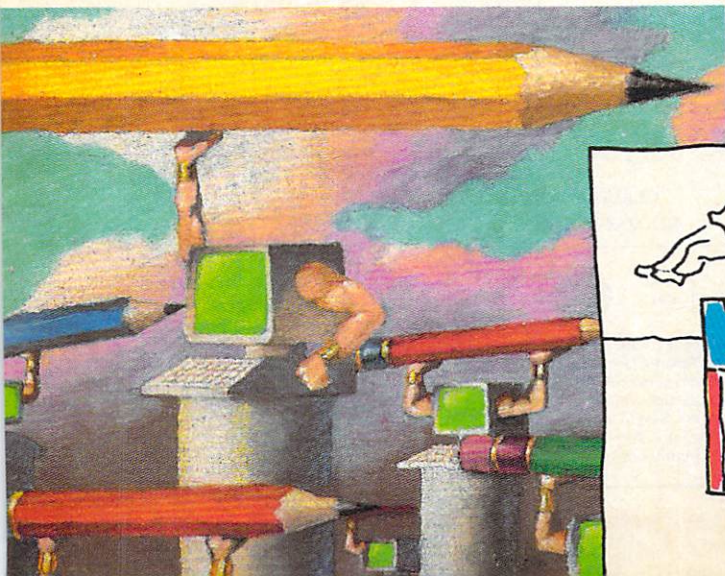
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COVER PHOTOGRAPH BY ANTHONY LOEW

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One major thing that has driven Timex Sinclair owners crazy is a lack of disk drives. There is nothing more disheartening than to see a six-minute tapeload fail. Wouldn't it be grand to have a disk so you could see the load fail in seconds instead?

All kidding aside, you might want to consider the Aerco Disk Interface (FD-68) (Box 18093, Austin, TX 78760; [512] 451-5874). The TS 2068 version comes with the disk interface, an RGB interface, 64K of RAM (expandable to 256K with some rewiring), one disk drive, and a case and power supply (\$377). For \$25 more, you can purchase a user license for RPM, which is a CP/M upgrade.

RPM will run CP/M 2.2, which is the gateway to thousands of programs for Timex users. The RPM system disk is also crammed with utilities, so you will have a ready-to-use system. With the many CP/M users' groups around the country, a lack of programs might never be a complaint again.

An Aerco disk interface (FD-ZX) and drive is also available for the TS 1000/1500 (\$360), but it does not include the extra memory or RGB interface.

**Adam Disk Drives.** Adam users are lucky that Coleco released a disk drive for the Adam, which was originally sold with digital tape drives. The bad news is that the supply of disk drives is starting to dry up. But some retail stores on the East Coast still have them in stock, as do several Adam mail-order houses. Call the following dealers to find out which ones still have drives in stock: NIAD, (312) 961-3529; M.W. Ruth Co., (609) 667-2526; Alpha-One LTD, (718) 336-7612. Don't forget to tell them where you got their name! Yeah, it's a cheap plug, I admit.

But what if you already have the Adam disk drive and it's acting up? Or you'd like to store more on every disk? Enter EVE Electronic Systems (320 Union St., Millis, MA 02054; [617] 376-4919). EVE repairs disk drives and will upgrade them. EVE pulls the guts from your current system and installs a double-sided drive in its place. This boosts your original 160K storage to 320K. (If you use CP/M 2.2, you can only access 270K.) The cost of this modification is \$150.

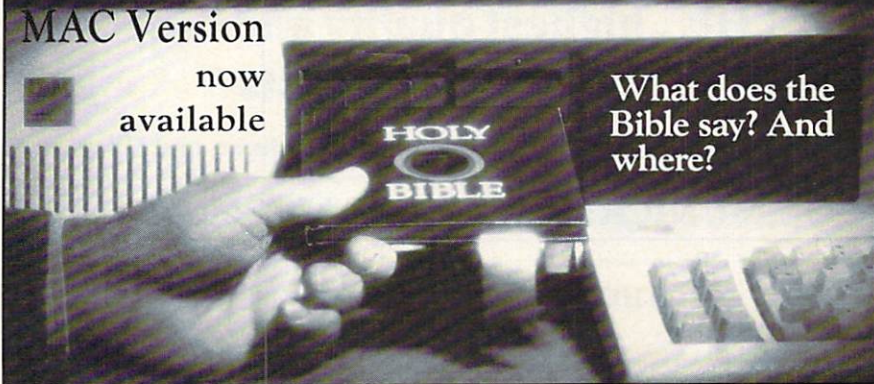
PATRICK SPERA can be reached on CompuServe (ID: 76703.4350).

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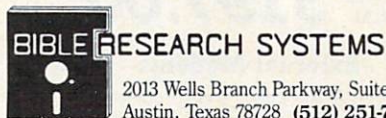
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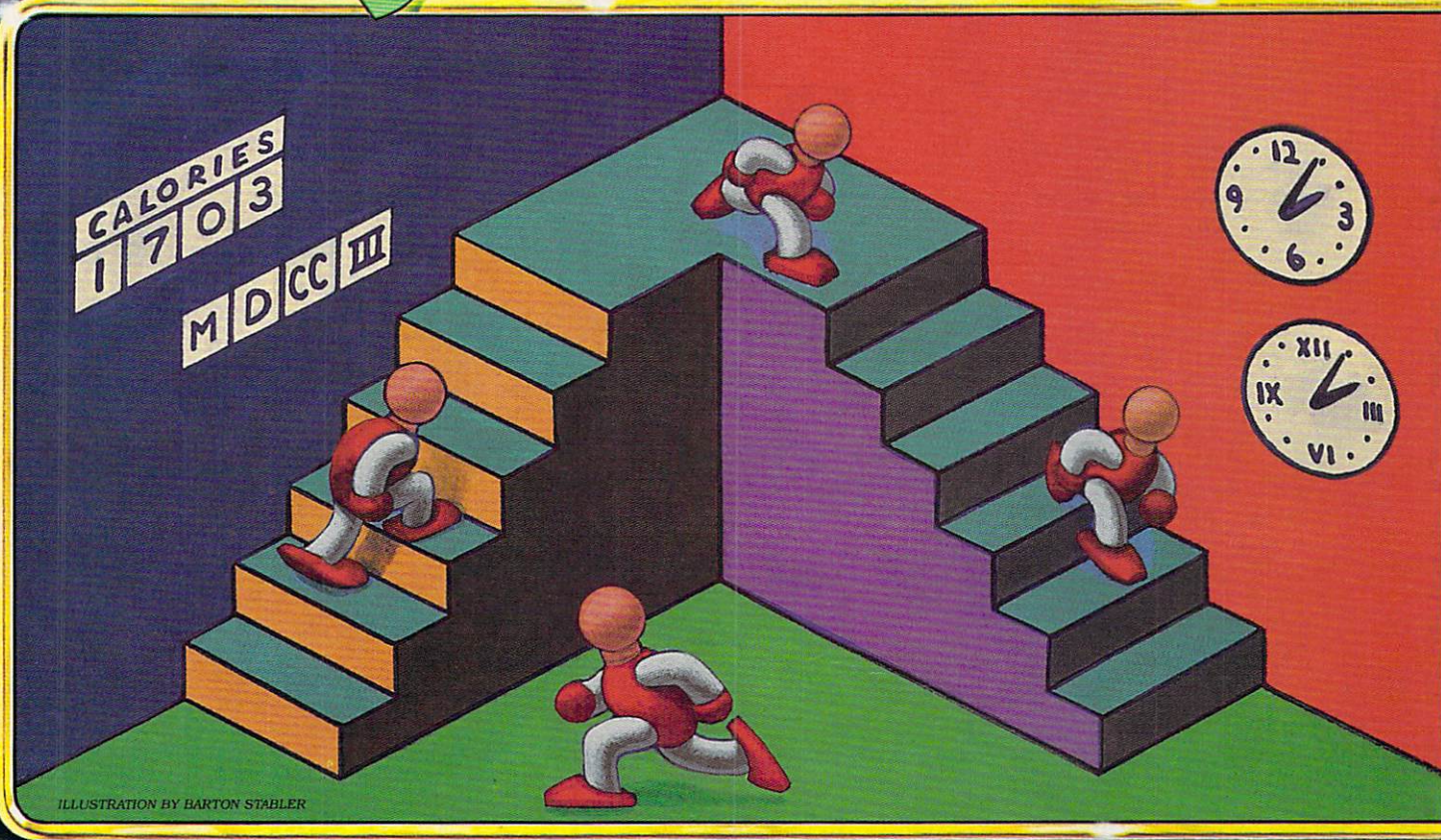


ILLUSTRATION BY BARTON STABLER

## M A R C H

### FUN LEARNING PROGRAM

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What do the word MIX and the number 1009 have in common? If you're not sure, type in the *Roman Numeral Converter* and find out.

### SELF HELP PROGRAM

Page 60

Keep track of your diet and exercise plan with *Calorie Calculator*, a useful program that helps you balance calorie expenditure with calorie intake.

### PROGRAMMING TUTORIAL

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If you would like to get more use out of your computer's function keys, follow our *Function Key Demo* and read the accompanying tutorial to learn how.

### MORE PROGRAMS IN K-POWER

Page 80

Can Captain Quirk save the universe from the Stickons' scheme? Only the *Second Guesser* in Compucofia can say.

### PROGRAMMING P.S.

Page 74

Corrections to previous months' programs.

ILLUSTRATION BY JAMES CHERRY III

# ROMAN NUMERAL CONVERTER

HERE'S HELP IN DECIPHERING—  
AND DEVISING—ROMAN NUMERALS

BY JOEY LATIMER

One day, while I was watching some television movie credits roll by, the letters MCMLXXXI flashed on the screen. I thought I knew my Roman numerals, but I have to admit, I had trouble with this one. I was sure surprised when I fired up my *Roman Numeral Converter* program and discovered that MCMLXXXI is 1981 in Arabic (or conventional) numbers!

To use *Roman Numeral Converter*, just type the program into your computer, SAVE it, and then RUN it. You will be greeted by the main menu and given choices of converting Arabic to Roman, converting Roman to Arabic, or quitting. If you choose Arabic to Roman, you will be prompted to enter an Arabic number. Make sure not to put commas in your number (e.g., enter 2543 not 2,543).

The Arabic number you input must be no higher than 3999 due to limitations of computer character sets. The Roman numeral for 4000 is  $\overline{M}$  (a bar over a letter multiplies the value of that letter by 1000, so  $\overline{V}$ =5 but  $\overline{V}$ =5000). Some computers cannot print these overbars except in graphics mode, and other computers cannot print them at all. So our program only deals with Roman numbers that can be written using normal letters.

If your choice is Roman to Arabic, then you will be prompted to enter a Roman number, made up of these letters:

I = 1	C = 100
V = 5	D = 500
X = 10	M = 1000
L = 50	

Here are some examples of Roman numbers and



their Arabic counterparts:

II = 2
VIII = 8
XVII = 17
LXX = 70
CXL = 140
DCCCLXVI = 866
MCMLXXXVII = 1987

## ROMAN RULES

1. The general principle is that a smaller-valued letter after a larger-valued one adds to the cumulative value, and a smaller letter before a larger one subtracts from its value.

2. Double subtractions are not allowed. For example, XCM is illegal because it is ambiguous: Do you first compute the value of XC and subtract it from M, getting 910, or do you subtract the value of X from CM, getting 890?

3. The same letter can't appear more than three times in a row. For example, you say IV, not IIII, and CM, not DCCCC.

4. I can only precede V or X; X can only precede L or C; and C can only precede D or M. For example, 999 is written CMXCIX, not IM.

## Adam & Apple II series/Roman Numeral Converter

```

10 DIM RS(4,9),V(4)
20 FOR X = 1 TO 4:FOR Y = 1 TO 9-6*(X = 4)
30 READ RS(X,Y):NEXT Y,X
40 HOME:PRINT "-ROMAN NUMERAL CONVERTER-"
50 PRINT:PRINT:PRINT "DO YOU WANT TO"
60 PRINT:PRINT "<1> CONVERT NUMBERS FROM"
70 PRINT TAB(5);"ARABIC TO ROMAN,"
80 PRINT "<2> CONVERT NUMBERS FROM"
90 PRINT TAB(5);"ROMAN TO ARABIC, OR"
100 PRINT "<3> QUIT AND RETURN TO BASIC?"
110 PRINT:PRINT ">";
120 GET K$:K = VAL(K$):IF K < 1 OR K > 3 THEN 120
130 PRINT K:ON K GOTO 150,360,140
140 HOME:END
150 HOME:PRINT "-CONVERT ARABIC TO ROMAN-"
160 PRINT:PRINT "PLEASE ENTER A WHOLE NUMBER"
170 PRINT "BETWEEN 1 AND 3999 (WITHOUT"
180 PRINT "COMMAS), OR ENTER <R> TO"
190 PRINT "RETURN TO THE MENU."
200 PRINT:INPUT "WHAT IS YOUR CHOICE? ";NS:PRINT
210 IF LEFT$(NS,1) = "R" OR LEFT$(NS,1) = CHR$(82) THEN
N 40
220 VA = VAL(NS):IF VA <= 0 OR VA <> INT(VA) THEN 160
230 IF VA <= 3999 THEN 260
240 PRINT VA;" IS TOO HIGH."
250 PRINT "PLEASE TRY AGAIN.":GOTO 200
260 LN = LEN(NS):VF = 1
270 FOR X = 1 TO LN:DG$ = MID$(NS,X,1)
280 IF DG$ >= "0" AND DG$ <= "9" THEN 300
290 VF = 0:X = LN:GOTO 310
300 V(LN+1-X) = VAL(DG$)
310 NEXT X:IF NOT VF THEN 160
320 RX$ = "":FOR PS = LN TO 1 STEP -1
330 IF V(PS) <> 0 THEN RX$ = RX$+RS(PS,V(PS))
340 NEXT PS
350 PRINT:PRINT "THE ROMAN NUMBER IS ";RX$:GOTO 160
360 HOME:PRINT "-CONVERT ROMAN TO ARABIC-"
370 PRINT:PRINT "PLEASE ENTER THE ROMAN NUMBER,"
380 PRINT "OR ENTER <R> TO RETURN TO THE"
390 PRINT "MENU."
400 PRINT:INPUT "WHAT IS YOUR CHOICE? ";MS:PRINT
410 IF LEFT$(MS,1) = "R" OR LEFT$(MS,1) = CHR$(82) THEN
N 40
420 IF MS = "" THEN 370
430 NS = "":FOR X = 1 TO LEN(MS):CS$ = MID$(MS,X,1)
440 C = ASC(CS$):NS = NS+CHR$(C-32*(C > 96)*(C < 123))
450 NEXT X:LN = LEN(NS):Z = 1:RN = 0
460 FOR X = 4 TO 1 STEP -1
470 FOR Y = 9-6*(X = 4) TO 1 STEP -1
480 HS$ = MID$(NS,Z,LEN(RS(X,Y)))
490 IF HS$ <> RS(X,Y) THEN 520
500 RN = RN+(Y*10^(X-1)):Z = Z+LEN(RS(X,Y)):Y = 1
510 IF Z > LN THEN X = 1:Y = 1
520 NEXT Y:NEXT X
530 IF Z > LN THEN 560
540 PRINT "INVALID NUMBER. PLEASE TRY"
550 PRINT "AGAIN.":GOTO 370
560 PRINT:PRINT "THE ARABIC NUMBER IS ";RN:GOTO 370
1000 DATA I,II,III,IV,V,VI,VII,VIII,IX
1010 DATA X,XX,XXX,XL,L,LX,LXX,LXXX,XC
1020 DATA C,CC,CCC,CD,D,DC,DCC,DCCC,CM
1030 DATA M,MM,MMM
    
```

## Atari 400/800, 600/800XL, & 130XE/ Roman Numeral Converter

```

10 DIM CS(40),DG$(40),HS$(40),MS(40),NS(40),PS(40)
20 DIM RS(120),RX$(40),TABS(7),V(4),XS(40)
30 RS=CHR$(32):RS(120)=RS:RS(2)=RS:TABS=RS
40 OPEN #3,4,0,"K:":
50 FOR X=1 TO 120 STEP 4:READ XS:RS(X)=XS:NEXT X
60 RS(120)=CHR$(32)
    
```

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